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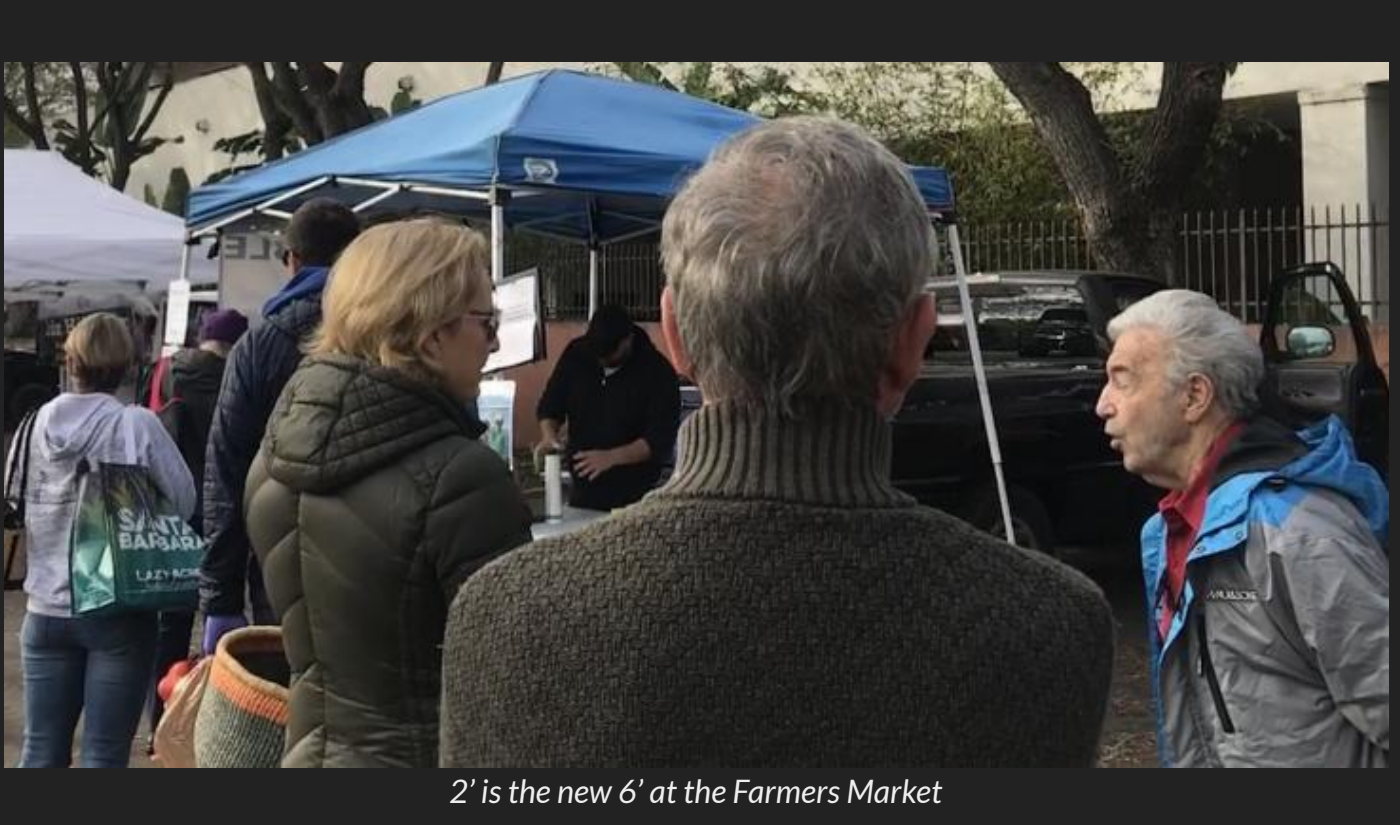


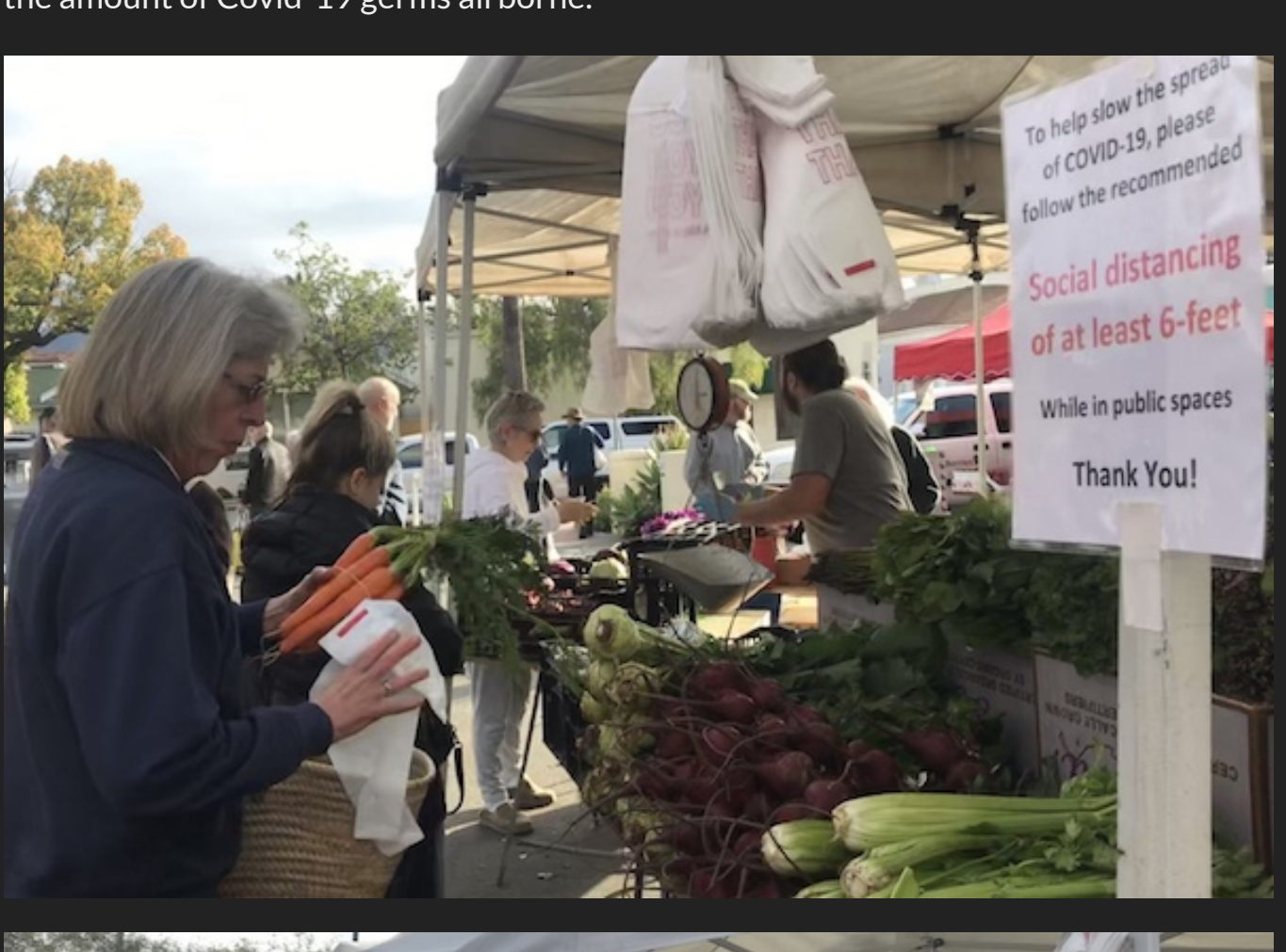
2' is the new 6' at the Farmers Market

COVID-19 / MAR 21 2020 03:20 PM / BY / 56 COMMENTS / READS 6325

By an edhat reader

At the Farmers Market in downtown Santa Barbara on a windless Saturday morning, shoppers and vendors were in close proximity to each other and the fresh food being sold there. Although the market had posted Covid-19 warning signs calling for 6' social distancing, there was no enforcement of that.

By contrast at most local grocery stores, the entrances are blocked by store employees who are gatekeepers managing the entrance of shoppers in line. Their goal is to spread shoppers out and manage the number of shoppers in the store, and presumably minimize the amount of Covid-19 germs airborne.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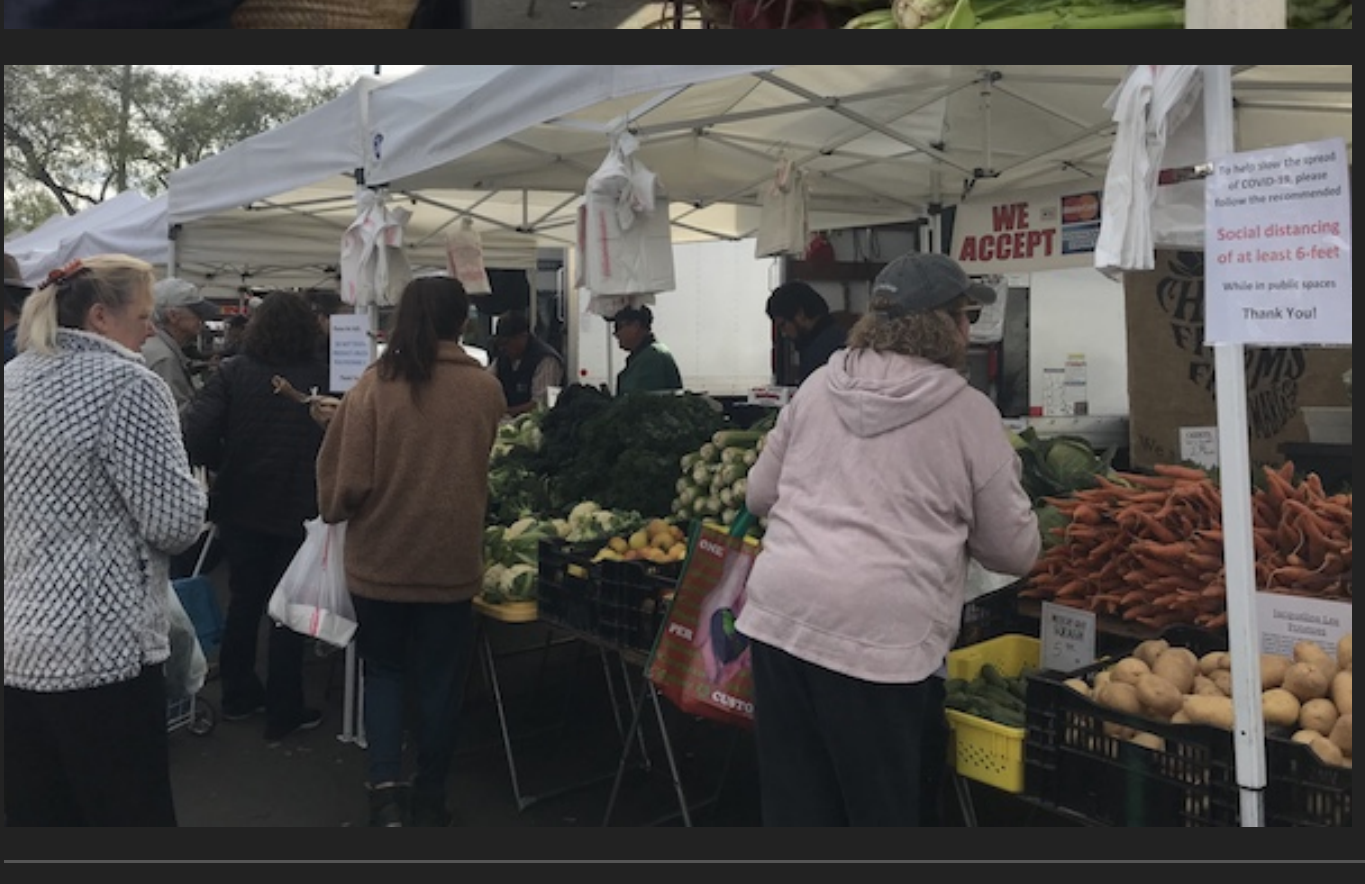

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JQB MAR 21, 2020 10:13 PM

The NYT opinion piece by Dr. Katz posted in one of the comments is a cherry-picked minority view (to say the least) and is poorly thought out. And even on its on terms it's not possible: "So what is the alternative? Well, we could focus our resources on testing and protecting, in every way possible, all those people the data indicate are especially vulnerable to severe infection: the elderly, people with chronic diseases and the immunologically compromised. Those that test positive could be the first to receive the first approved antivirals. The majority, testing negative, could benefit from every resource we have to shield them from exposure." -- this is a huge population and the testing regime to do this does not exist. Some responses have been posted at https://twitter.com/DrDavidKatz/status/1241046118903021568

JQB MAR 21, 2020 10:02 PM

13 identified cases in SB county now, 3 of the 4 new ones are younger than 50. https://keyt.com/health/coronavirus/2020/03/21/four-more-covid-19-cases-confirmed-in-santa-barbara-county/

A-1584886670 MAR 21, 2020 09:28 PM

Sadly they are going to have to institute martial law and then ppl will bitch and moan. These ppl are making it so that this will last longer and longer and really do major damage. I just cannot believe the selfishness of ppl this situation has brought to light.

EASTBEACH MAR 22, 2020 12:14 AM

Do you also want your retired parents to die from this virus? It's a horrible death - you essentially drown in bed .... Will you be sad then as well?

A-1584886670 MAR 21, 2020 11:05 PM

Is something wrong with you? I feel sad for my retired parents whose few joys right now are being able to interact with others and enjoy a meal out. Not being able to leave your house under martial law is not easy for anyone. You will have total restriction of movement and police on the street enforcing it. You want that?

STEWART14 MAR 21, 2020 10:59 PM

Why worry about martial law if you are a pension leech or retired? No problem!

SBCOUNTYLOCAL MAR 21, 2020 07:38 PM

The Rose Garden MUST be closed. Less than 50% the people picnicking there today were practicing any type of social distancing. How the City could allow this is beyond me. The police should have been there to give these idiots a tongue-lashing separated them or make them leave. It's unconscionable that these idiots think that what they were doing today will not kill others. Utterly thoughtless.

EASTBEACH MAR 21, 2020 06:50 PM

I did some scouting while riding my bike for exercise today. Strange to see almost all stores on lower/mid State St closed. Only Yogurtland and the liquor store @Haley/State were open. Very few tourists along the waterfront. Some people were BBQ'ing @Ledbetter but fewer than usual. Similarly few people @Shoreline Park. La Mesa Park was dead. There were normal numbers @Wilcox but everyone was distancing. Similar at the top of Elings Park - only the grazing sheep were not practicing social distancing - baaaahd sheep! :) Oak Park is usually full of people during the weekend but it was a ghost park (one couple playing tennis). I rode by Cottage and saw the big triage tent in the emergency room parking lot. There was one greeter standing at the entrance to the ERoom. Mission Park (aka the Rose garden) was the one disappointment. Lots of people congregating as if there were no pandemic. Also noticed an estate sale as I rode along APS (really?!). Overall a great day to get some exercise and scope things out.

EASTBEACH MAR 21, 2020 08:31 PM

I suppose they could have been eschewing the normal self-service and preparing the yogurt for customers. But I rode past quickly so couldn't tell.

A-1584886670 MAR 21, 2020 08:11 PM

Ugh, can't believe yogurtland is open with their buffet format.

SHASTA GUY MAR 21, 2020 06:44 PM

It took Italy only 18 days to go from 28 deaths per day to 793 deaths per day (today). Now it's full martial law for the nation. This thing turns bad fast. NYC is at 20 deaths so far today which is like Italy about 18 days ago.

EASTBEACH MAR 22, 2020 01:07 AM

Correlation between our numbers and Italy's. Not good https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2020/3/20/21179040/coronavirus-us-italy-not-overreacting

MIDAIR MAR 21, 2020 06:37 PM

I am confused...is it still a democratic hoax?

A-1584886670 MAR 21, 2020 06:06 PM

Suppression is about fewer people in less space. It is not about being neurotic and measuring space. Remember, the 6 feet is an approximate of how far you need to be if someone sneezes. However, I think nobody's willing to stand 6 feet in front of a sneeze to tempt fate.

JQB MAR 21, 2020 09:37 PM

https://nypost.com/2020/03/17/86-of-people-with-coronavirus-are-walking-around-undetected-study-says/ "Using computer modeling, researchers tracked infections before and after the Chinese city of Wuhan's travel ban. The findings indicated that these undocumented infections with no or mild symptoms — known as "stealth" cases — were behind two-thirds of the reported patients. "The majority of these infections are mild, with few symptoms at all," Shaman said, Mercury News reported. "People may not recognize it. Or they think they have a cold." These "stealth" cases were then able to transmit the bug that could cause severe symptoms in other people, according to the researchers."

JQB MAR 21, 2020 09:34 PM

Sneezing is not a COVID-19 symptom; coughing is. But it can be transmitted just by breathing.

CADILLACKID MAR 21, 2020 05:29 PM

I'm not even going to put in my 2 cents because I'll just be downvoted, but I'm sure most of you would know how I feel about this. (Hand on my forehead, clean hand)

GAUCHOGURL MAR 21, 2020 05:21 PM

I saw the same situation at Ralph's on Hollister, where they're only allowing 50 people at a time in the store , which is a good idea, but as far as the social distancing, the people in line outside are not keeping a 6 feet distance.

GAUCHOGURL MAR 21, 2020 09:56 PM

I guess I should have waited longer after clicking the "send" button. ;-)

GAUCHOGURL MAR 21, 2020 09:12 PM

I guess I should have been more specific. They're not even 2 feet apart. They are closer together than if they would be if they were in line with shopping carts at the cashier check-out. The greater point is that social distancing is not being followed by the majority of people out and about.

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A-1584886670 MAR 21, 2020 06:10 PM

Six feet apart is a generalization meant to avoid moisture cast from someone's mouth if they sneeze or cough. It's an approximate and point of reference.

GASTIL MAR 21, 2020 05:08 PM

We went to Farmers Market right at opening. I liked that Shu (sorry I do not know spelling) offered a big box of assorted greens, root veggies, and leeks, pre-packed for $30, grab & go style. They had 6-foot spacing drawn with chalk to keep the line distant. Everything is stuff we eat, except some radishes I gave to my neighbor. I saw a sign that Roots was offering boxes too, at a different location. If they end up having to close even market then I hope they still offer the boxes. We took a lot of precautions before and after market but it is still the most exposed we have been since the at-home phase began.

MINIBEAST MAR 21, 2020 04:58 PM

Reality is: there are people, and there will always be these types, who think they're smarter, stronger, **special** and won't be affected/infected, no matter what the crisis. I sent Edhat an email this morning with a report of people standing hip-to-hip at a yard sale in the 1400 block of APS. Edhat has yet to post my report. If I'd had a photo, I would have asked for that to be posted as well. I am certain some here on Edhat will scoff and sneer and go into their usual "Do we REALLY need to snitch on the 'misbehavers?'" This deniers mindset is not acceptable. My friend (wisely keeping to other side of the street) walked past the group of a dozen or so bargain hunters, as he witnessed them huddled together inside a small garage. Other people were coming and going. He came home outraged that anyone could be so stupid and utterly irresponsible. It's not about these types risking infecting themselves; what do we care if it is only them who suffer for their folly? It's what their hubris means for the rest of us. It's the consequences of them ignoring distancing and what their foolhardy "we think it's all a bunch of hooey" attitude toward this pandemic may well cost us all. Did Governor Newsom issue a stay-at-home order on a whim? Do the smart thing: avoid interaction with others as much as possible, stay home if you can, and for chrissakes, do not think for one second that you are immune to this virus------no matter what your age or health status.

EASTBEACH MAR 21, 2020 05:49 PM

I happened to ride my bike past that estate sale and thought "who in their right minds would hold an estate sale during a pandemic!?"

SHASTA GUY MAR 21, 2020 04:39 PM

Too close for comfort for me. I'm wearing a mask when I go to the store now. I'm thinking of putting a sealed tub in my car with soapy water so I can wash my hands ASAP after a public excursion.

SHASTA GUY MAR 21, 2020 05:47 PM

I will do whatever it takes to keep myself from getting the virus and bringing it back to the 5 other members of my household. If necessary, I will use my full face HEPA respirator from work to keep my family safe. Those refusing to become ultra cautious now will be the first in line at the triage tents at Cottage, followed by all their friends who did everything to live their lives to the best of their abilities in public. The mask was given as a handout to another family member in SF. My current greatest risk of getting the virus is breathing from someone else at a grocery store. 50% of the infected people in NYC are under age 49 who were not cautious enough when it seemed there were no sick people around them. Good luck Loose Cannon.

ALEXBLUE MAR 21, 2020 05:45 PM

Loosecannon, so you really think that a hospital wants my used mask? Really?

LOOSECANNON MAR 21, 2020 05:00 PM

You're wasting precious resources with your face mask. They are in short supply and some doofus like you shouldn't be wearing one. They belong to people on the frontlines or people feeling sick who have to go outside.

A-1584886670 MAR 21, 2020 04:36 PM

Time to wake up - take things seriously.

Z MAR 21, 2020 04:29 PM

2" not a problem; they're organic.

A-1584886670 MAR 21, 2020 04:03 PM

Love the Farmer's Market, but to tell the truth, I'd much rather go on a Sierra Club hike with a group of more than 20 people....rub-a-dub-dub, five peeps in a fake tourist tomol for the win.

LOOSECANNON MAR 21, 2020 03:55 PM

Reality check: Most people who contract COVID-19 will experience mild symptoms and recover completely. The people most at risk are the elderly and people with preexisting medical conditions. Those people should isolate themselves and rely upon social services and the generosity of family and friends. The rest of us, it seems to me, are conscientiously trying to practice social distancing, but there are people on this website (killjoys and little gestapo types) who seem to take perverse joy in social shaming people for the smallest infractions. Get a life, people. If you don't like what you see in public spaces, don't go there. You can live in fear and loathing. Leave the rest of us to go about our everyday lives to the best of our abilities.

A-1584886670 MAR 21, 2020 11:26 PM

No it's not "groupthink", it's trying to avoid the horrific scenario playing out in Italy.

A-1584886670 MAR 21, 2020 11:09 PM

LOOSE CANNON you are a sick individual. I'm not over 50 I'm younger than that and I am out of work (luckily can work remotely for now and hopefully the money won't dry up). I prefer to be alive myself, and have my parents stay alive as well as friends and relatives. Money is nothing if your dead or have a serious illness. You sound like a malignant narcissist.

A-1584886670 MAR 21, 2020 11:09 PM

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A-1584886670 MAR 21, 2020 09:32 PM

LOOSE CANNON you know what I think YOU should be isolated b/c you're an idiot. Then the elderly can enjoy themselves out and about as they deserve to. You really are a piece of work and I truly hope that no one you knows ends up in the hospital with this virus.

A-1584886670 MAR 21, 2020 09:38 PM

LOOSE CANNON you know what I think YOU should be isolated instead as you are a loose cannon as your handle suggetss. Elderly need to shop too for their needs and you are out spreading it. You really are a piece of work and I truly hope that no one you knows ends up in the hospital with this virus. I say someone start a public Facebook page for all across the country to posts pictures with location (town and state) of people congregating for public and social shaming purposes at this point.

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MINIBEAST MAR 21, 2020 08:42 PM

ALEXBLUE: It's all too obvious LOOSECANNON is talking to himself.

MINIBEAST MAR 21, 2020 08:41 PM

LOOSECANNON-------I was about to add to the already 16 downvotes on your dumbass comment, but it feels right to just leave it be so others can enjoy your far from genius comeback.

LOOSECANNON MAR 21, 2020 05:51 PM

Yes XANTUS and I would hazard a guess that most of the people commenting here are over 50, many of them retired. It can't be pleasant hearing that they need to self-isolate, until a vaccine is discovered and the virus mutates or dies out. Instead, they want EVERYONE to suffer, the whole economy to tank. Well, as a self-employed business owner, I'm not prepared to go along with this idiotic mentality that everything should shut down. It's all very well for a bunch of pols, salaried government workers, and wealth retirees to go for a complete halt to the economy, when they're collecting salaries, pensions, and Social Security, when it's people like me who are going to suffer the consequences. And the cavalry isn't coming to the rescue of the self-employed and small business owners, that's for damn sure. When all is said and done, I'm not prepared to sit back and watch wealthy retirees retreat to your Montecito estates and gated communities, hopping around to your second homes and cruise-ship vacations, acting like nothing happened, while the rest of us pick up the pieces. No way, grandpa.

LOOSECANNON MAR 21, 2020 05:42 PM

Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds

XANTUS MAR 21, 2020 05:39 PM

not even that big of a group either... the edhat commenter pool contains, what.. less than 1% of the people who live here? I also took a stroll around town today, many people either do not watch the news or do not think its a risk... barely any "distancing" seen ;)

BOBBYK MAR 21, 2020 05:38 PM

Yea like Wisdom of the Crowd. I get it.

LOOSECANNON MAR 21, 2020 05:33 PM

It's called groupthink BOBBYK.

BOBBYK MAR 21, 2020 05:22 PM

Look at your Down Votes, there's your reality check. lol

LOOSECANNON MAR 21, 2020 04:52 PM

The elderly and people with dangerous medical conditions should isolate themselves. I recommend the following article, "Is Our Fight Against Coronavirus Worse Than the Disease?" in yesterday's New York Times: https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/20/opinion/coronavirus-pandemic-social-distancing.html?action=click&module=Opinion&pgtype=Homepage

A-1584886670 MAR 21, 2020 04:48 PM

LOOSE CANON and you can spread it to those elderly and at risk. You want that on your conscience?

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